

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

FONSI

**Big Horn Rural Electric Company Power Line and
Ten Sleep Solid Waste Water Pipeline Rights-of-way**

June 2016



PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Worland Field Office

Finding of No Significant Impact

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2016-0000-EA) for a proposed action to address rights-of-way (ROWs) applications to provide electrical service and a buried water pipeline to serve Ten Sleep Landfill. This EA incorporates the rights-of-way applications and plans of development for the OH/UG power line, serial number WYW-165347, and buried water pipeline, serial number WYW-165348, located in Washakie County, Wyoming.

Big Horn Rural Electric Company (BHREA) has a proposed action for an OH/UG single phase distribution power line ROW, serial number WYW-165347, 1,870.0 feet in length, 25 feet in width, involving a total of 1.073 acres, more or less. The power line consists of (1) pole and other appurtenant equipment necessary for an overhead/underground distribution line located in Washakie County, Wyoming. In addition, Ten Sleep Solid Waste District (TSSWD) has proposed to construct a 3" buried water pipeline, serial number WYW-165348, 2,288.0 feet in length, 25 feet in width, involving a total ROW of 1.313 acres, more or less.

The proposed activities would occur on lands administered by the BLM, Worland Field Office. Construction activities are planned for the summer of 2016, or as soon as required approvals are obtained.

The underlying need for the proposal would be met while accomplishing the following objectives:

1. BLM's responsibility under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) to respond to requests for right-of-way (ROW) grants.
2. The proposed action conforms to the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Worland Field Office dated September 21, 2015, which provides general management direction and allocation of uses and resources on public lands in the area. The Worland RMP (pgs 107-109) delineates right-of-way corridors, right-of-way avoidance areas, right-of-way exclusion area, and areas available for right-of-way. The Worland RMP states that the BLM would manage public lands to meet transportation and ROW needs by providing opportunities to meet ROW demands while protecting important resources.

The project area is located: Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming, T. 47 N., R. 88 W., section 21 lots 7 and 9, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2016-0018-EA is attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A No Action Alternative and Proposed Action alternative with incorporated design features were analyzed in the EA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Worland RMP/FEIS. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context

The project is a site-specific action directly involving approximately 2.386 acres of BLM administered land that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

- 1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.** The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to resource values were incorporated in the design of the Proposed Action alternative. None of the environmental effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Worland FEIS.
- 2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.** The proposed action is designed to mitigate for public health and safety. The Proposed Action with incorporated design features achieves the balance of resource protection and beneficial uses of the human environment.
- 3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** The historic and cultural resources of the area have been inventoried and potential impacts mitigated in the design of the Proposed Action alternative. The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
- 4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be controversial.** There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.
- 5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. The preferred alternative neither establishes a precedent for future BLM actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 3 of the EA.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The project will not adversely affect district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources. A class III cultural resource inventory (BLM cultural projects #010-2016-049 and #010-2016-049) one site was identified within the APE and not eligible for the NRHP. No historic properties will be affected. For the protection of unknown cultural resources the standard cultural stipulations apply and are incorporated in the Terms and Conditions. Consultation occurred with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the Wyoming State Protocol Agreement between the BLM and the SHPO (State Protocol).

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973. There are no Threatened and Endangered, or BLM Special Status Plant Species known to occur in the project area. The proposed project area does not lie within a designated sage grouse core breeding area, and it is not inside the two-mile buffer zone of an active sage grouse lek.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Signature

/s/ Michael J. Phillips

June 7, 2016

Worland Field Office Manager

Date